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## Third Committee

**Summary record of the 10th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 10 October 2006, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Al-Bayati ..... (Iraq)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

**Agenda item 61: Advancement of women** (*continued*) (A/61/283 and 303)

**(a) Advancement of women** (*continued*) (A/61/38, 122 and Add.1, 292 and 318)

**(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly** (*continued*) (A/61/174)

1. **Ms. Rebello** (India) said that inequality between women and men, and discrimination against women, continued to exist the world over. Greater empowerment of women — socially, economically and politically — was increasingly urgent, and she therefore endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation (A/61/174, para. 77) concerning the integration of gender perspectives in the implementation of and follow-up to major international conferences, as well as in the context of the reform of the United Nations. She hoped that suitable measures would be taken within the United Nations system to address the lack of progress, even regression, in achieving 50/50 gender distribution, especially at the senior and policymaking levels.

2. India paid careful attention to the issue of gender equality, which was enshrined in its Constitution, and to the empowerment of women, which was key to good governance. The Government had recognized the political, legal, educational and economic empowerment of women as a top priority and, through its five-year plans, was committed to enabling women to be equal partners in development. Various initiatives had been introduced, including reserving one third of local-government seats for women, with plans to introduce similar measures in the Indian Parliament; creating self-help groups for rural women, which had contributed to their economic empowerment; reducing the gender gap in literacy; enhancing gender mainstreaming; and setting targets for reducing the female-poverty ratio.

3. She said that the issue of violence against women, which occurred in all countries, should be addressed urgently. Her country attached great importance to that issue: legislation on domestic violence had been passed in 2005, and legislation on the prevention of sexual harassment of women at work was under consideration, to supplement existing case-law.

4. Measures had also been taken in the area of employment, such as guaranteeing to every rural household a minimum amount of work. At least one third of beneficiaries would be women. The number of women entrepreneurs had risen above 10 per cent, and initiatives were being introduced to increase the figure further, including the establishment of a standing committee on women and the provision of financial assistance to women entrepreneurs. Another major initiative to advance gender equality was the institutionalization of gender-sensitive budgeting.

5. Her country had also responded to the Secretary-General's call for increased representation of female personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and had been contributing women military personnel and police officers, including in conflict and post-conflict societies.

6. **Mr. Cumberbatch Miguén** (Cuba) expressed concern that, despite all the work being carried out by the United Nations in the area of promotion of gender equality, the objectives set out in the Beijing Platform for Action remained out of reach for the majority of women. The reason was simple: neoliberal globalization, in the context of an unjust world order, not only increased the gap between rich and poor but also brought with it the humiliating feminization of poverty. Women were the most frequent victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and forced prostitution. Much remained to be done to promote the advancement of women, but that required real political will.

7. National efforts, particularly in developing countries, must be supplemented by equitable international cooperation in a climate of respect for sovereignty and independence, rather than interference in States' domestic affairs. His country attached great importance to combating gender discrimination and promoting the empowerment of women, and had made considerable achievements in that area. Women constituted almost half the total workforce in Cuba, and his country had the seventh highest proportion of women parliamentarians in the world. Over one third of management posts were occupied by women — a proportion that outstripped most other countries. Women also accounted for a high proportion of judicial

posts, and for almost half the workers active in Cuba's cooperation projects with developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Cuba's achievements in promoting the advancement of women had been recognized at the recent session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

8. Those achievements had been brought about despite the unjust economic, trade and financial blockade imposed on his country by the United States of America, which constituted a grave form of violence against Cuban women. That violence was not only physical and material but also psychological. Cuba had shown how much could be achieved by a small, poor country when there was genuine political will. The shortcomings that remained with regard to the full achievement of gender equality would be addressed. Cuba attached importance to its ongoing fulfilment of international commitments and its implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

9. **Ms. Aliyeva** (Azerbaijan) welcomed the focus on the critical issue of violence against women, which was a major form of discrimination and a human rights violation, and commended the study carried out in that area (A/61/122 and Add.1), and its recommendations. Slow and uneven progress had been made in addressing the problem, partly owing to its roots in existing discriminatory societal and cultural attitudes, and in inequality. Political will and commitment were required at the highest level for eliminating discriminatory attitudes and ensuring economic empowerment of women, which was crucial for preventing gender-based violence. However, the implementation of the relevant international human rights commitments had been far from adequate. It would be useful to publicize the study at the national level and to translate its summary and recommendations into national languages. She called upon the relevant United Nations bodies to support that endeavour.

10. Various initiatives were being implemented in Azerbaijan to eliminate violence against women, which was especially acute in some rural areas and among the refugees and internally displaced persons forced to flee by the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Various strategies to eliminate such violence had been incorporated into the national gender policy; relevant domestic legislation was being strengthened; and the Penal Code had been revised to incorporate new articles relating to rape, sexual harassment and trafficking in women. Other practical measures were being introduced, with the cooperation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the training of law enforcement, judicial, medical and other personnel; counselling services; and sheltering of victims of violence and trafficking. Much remained to be done, however.

11. Economic inequality and vulnerability were among the root causes of violence and discrimination against women, and the issue of gender-based violence had therefore been included in the new national programme for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Furthermore, the new national employment strategy envisaged measures to promote women's employment and entrepreneurship. Special focus was placed on young women, women in rural areas, women refugees and internally displaced persons.

12. She expressed her appreciation for the work carried out on the ground by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in fostering various aspects of gender equality and empowerment of women, and ho[illegible]d that its presence could be reinforced.

13. **Ms. Kang** Kum-sil (Republic of Korea) said that the advancement of women and women's rights was not only a goal in itself; it was an essential component of prosperous human societies and the promotion of all human rights. She therefore commended the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1). She had taken note of his specific remarks on multiple forms of discrimination against women on grounds of race, sexual preference, disability and migrant status. The Government had taken measures to ensure that migrant women had direct access to remedies in the event of domestic violence or sexual harassment at work. In addition, an inter-agency consultation mechanism had been established to devise a support programme for immigrant women. The Republic of Korea was also at the forefront of the issue of women with disabilities, and had supported its inclusion as a separate article in the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the draft text of which had recently been finalized.

14. Women must be included in decision-making, especially at the managerial level, in order to advance their status in practice. One striking example of

progress was the recent election of Prime Minister Han Myeong-sook, the first woman to hold that office. Efforts had also been made to enhance women's roles in traditionally marginalized areas such as public enterprise, particularly in the fields of science and engineering.

15. Her country remained committed to the empowerment of women throughout the world and the advancement of their status by achieving the full spectrum of human rights.

16. **Mr. Hannesson** (Iceland) said that efforts must continue to be made to ensure implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. He welcomed the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1), which showed that levels of violence against women were serious, pervasive and persistent. Violence against women was both a human rights violation and a crime. He agreed that States had responsibility for preventing violence against women and must establish effective mechanisms for its punishment. As long as violence against women continued, it was impossible to make claims of progress towards equality, development and peace. Violence against women should be seen as a human rights crisis, particularly in view of the use of rape and sexual violence as a systematic weapon of war, which the international community must address with greater vigour.

17. Efforts were needed to combat human trafficking, which affected all States, and whose victims were mostly women and girls. His country had emphasized the role of regional institutions in addressing that problem, and had contributed actively to the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in that area.

18. His country attached great importance to the work of UNIFEM, which it believed should be given more weight in the United Nations system. Iceland also continued to strongly support implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. He stressed his country's commitment to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, both of which it had ratified. He urged all States that had not done so to ratify or accede to those instruments.

19. **Ms. Faye** (Senegal) said that it was generally acknowledged that sustainable development and poverty reduction could not be fully achieved unless gender inequality were eliminated; the advancement of women was necessarily linked to economic growth and development. In Senegal, therefore, efforts were being made to integrate women into development, with actions designed to improve their situation, generate income and ease the burden of their domestic work. Education, the enabler of social change, had improved their lives: there was increased enrolment of girls in schools and their greater involvement in devising curricula.

20. Senegal's poverty-reduction strategy encompassed social and human components designed to strengthen political will for behavioural change; develop a collective consciousness to reject violence against women or children; disseminate social and cultural values to combat unsafe sex practices; foster positive discrimination for disadvantaged groups; eliminate gender stereotypes from textbooks; increase women's participation in political life and decision-making; and eliminate gender stereotyping in the upbringing of young girls. In the area of women's reproductive health, some progress had been made, particularly in the reduction of taboos related to pregnancy, social stigmatization of rape, and violence against women.

21. The Government encouraged the participation of women in the work of international bodies. The number of women parliamentarians in Senegal had increased, and women were also well represented at the local-government level.

22. Despite the active promotion of good governance, however, and greater equality of rights and opportunities of women and men, more needed to be done to change attitudes in order to ensure gender equality by 2015. Her Government would continue efforts to achieve that goal.

23. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that gender equality and the advancement of women were enshrined in her country's Constitution and its development policy. Her Government complied with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Declaration issued by the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as it viewed gender equality as essential for sustainable development.

24. With regard to the study on violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1), her delegation would

have wished to see more emphasis on the consequences of war and foreign occupation for women, as they were almost always its first victims.

25. Her Government's current development plan included measures to reduce the gender gap in education and employment and to increase women's participation in the legislature. The Syrian Arab Republic had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had submitted its initial report. A national committee on violence against women had been established, as well as a number of NGOs working for women's economic, political and cultural advancement.

26. Her Government also provided support to women in the Syrian Arab Golan living under Israeli occupation, who were denied their basic right to education, health and employment. Guaranteeing the rights of women living under foreign occupation was essential.

27. **Ms. Bernardi** (San Marino) said that her Government had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had become a party to its Optional Protocol in 2005. Women in San Marino had achieved a significant level of participation in the electorate, and held over 10 per cent of seats in Parliament, along with two Cabinet posts. Women's high-ranking participation in the public and private sectors of the economy was significant, and wage equality was in line with ILO conventions. New legislation provided for parental leave after childbirth and in the case of a child's illness. In addition, since November 2003, women in San Marino had finally been able to transmit their nationality to their children.

28. The United Nations could play a central role in removing gender inequalities and in redefining the traditional rules of society that limited women's equality and freedom. Her delegation supported the proposal to appoint a special adviser to review the implementation of legislation criminalizing all forms of violence against women.

29. Over the past few decades, significant progress had been made, with the participation of women, in the eradication of poverty, marginalization, discrimination and exploitation, and women had also attempted to bridge the gap between North and South. The fight for the protection of human rights, especially of women and girls, must continue.

30. **Mr. Chew** (Singapore) said that Singapore did not tolerate violence against women. As a small country, it had long since realized that it would go only as far as its human resources would take it, and women represented half its human capital. An amendment to the Women's Charter had expanded the definition of family violence to include emotional and psychological harm, and courts could issue protection orders based on the probability that violence had occurred or would occur, rather than having to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, hoping thereby to encourage victims to seek help and protection.

31. Violence was a complex problem that required a coordinated and cross-cutting approach. To that end, Singapore had created a family-violence dialogue group, comprising representatives of the relevant ministries, the police, courts, prisons and social-service agencies. At the operational level, a family-violence networking system provided multiple access points where victims could get help. The Government also supported specialized services for women and crisis shelters for victims. Singapore was also active in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, aiming to raise awareness of and prevent violence against women.

32. **Ms. Abubaker** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that women in her country were making progress in such areas as education, health and human rights, but still lacked equal access to decision-making; political will would be required to change that situation.

33. To combat violence against women, girls must be educated to expect equality and to know their human rights. Her delegation was concerned at the deterioration of the situation of women in Africa as a result of war, lack of development and the spread of HIV/AIDS. She also drew attention to the situation of Palestinian women living under Israeli occupation. The international community must take action to bring an end to the practices which affected their basic human rights. Her Government condemned trafficking in women and urged the States to work to end that scourge by criminalizing it in their legislation.

34. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would implement the Beijing Platform for Action in its development policy. It had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. It had also passed legislation to put an end to traditional practices that

discriminated against women. It encouraged women's participation in decision-making and in all areas of society and State institutions.

35. **Ms. Stewart** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that work was still required to make the Beijing Platform for Action effective. The Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1) indicated that there had been little progress in that area. Sustained political will at the highest levels and substantial reallocation of resources to eradicate such violence was still lacking. Empowerment of women through their increased participation in decision-making and equal access to and control over resources were essential to transform societal attitudes towards violence against women.

36. The study closely corroborated a central finding of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women: there was an urgent need for a comprehensive and systematic collection and analysis of data on the scope and extent of gender-based violence. Limited availability of such data did not lessen the obligation of States to eradicate such violence; it was, however, essential to provide for more effective policies and practices for its prevention and elimination.

37. The three delegations commended the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, who had advanced the understanding of the due-diligence standard as a tool for eliminating gender-based violence. They also commended UNIFEM, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the important work accomplished in favour of gender equality and women's rights despite many challenges. The international community needed a stronger, better-resourced and more coordinated approach in that area. Those delegations supported a strong voice for women at the United Nations and called for robust and well-supported structures to be put in place.

38. Canada, Australia and New Zealand reaffirmed their unqualified commitment and support for the full and urgent implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and looked forward to applying it to the work of the new Peacebuilding Commission. Those delegations were dismayed to learn that both in the United Nations system and in the Secretariat the representation of women in the Professional and higher categories had remained static, and in some cases had decreased. The lack of progress required a review of current policies in order to meet gender-balance targets and to make credible the commitment of programme managers to that mandate.

39. Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was fundamental to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and to the promotion and protection of the rights of women around the world. Over 90 per cent of Member States were now party to the Convention. All remaining States should ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of the highest priority.

40. **Ms. Al-Dikheel** (Kuwait) said that the struggle against gender discrimination was an ongoing challenge for contemporary societies. Kuwait's Constitution prohibited discrimination on any basis, including gender. Kuwait's accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1994 demonstrated the importance it attached to the issue. Since then, it had submitted four reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

41. In recent years, Kuwait had achieved a decrease in the female illiteracy rate, in particular among young women, and an increase in the percentage of girls enrolled in education at all levels. Women had participated as voters and candidates in local and parliamentary elections. In the latter, more women had voted than men in some districts. The previous year had seen the appointment of the first Kuwaiti woman minister. Women held over 10 per cent of high administrative posts, reflecting a dramatic increase over the past decade. Kuwait's leadership was exhibiting the political will called for in the Secretary-General's study on violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1), which sprang from the values of Kuwaiti society and the teachings of Islam.

42. **Ms. Otani** (Japan) said that Japan had revised its plan for gender equality to encourage greater participation of women in such new areas as the environment and disaster prevention and recovery. One of its targets, moreover, was for women to hold at least 30 per cent of leadership positions in all areas of society by 2020. It had also revised the law on equal employment opportunity to expand prohibition of

gender discrimination. It was also active on the regional level in efforts to promote gender equality.

43. Her Government welcomed the Secretary-General's study on violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1) and hoped that all relevant mechanisms within the United Nation system would work towards implementation of programmes in that area. Japan had revised its laws on domestic violence, and local governments had established counselling and support centres for victims. It had also adopted a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons, and was cooperating closely with the Philippines, Thailand, Colombia, Indonesia and the Russian Federation to discuss measures and share information.

44. Based on its initiative on gender and development, Japan was working to integrate a gender-equality perspective into every area of implementation of its official development assistance. Through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, it had supported initiatives to enhance women's lives in many parts of the world, including Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. It reaffirmed its commitment to achieving gender equality within and outside Japan, working in close partnership with international organizations and civil society.

45. **Ms. Banzon** (Philippines) said that the key components of the Philippines' framework plan for women were the promotion of women's rights, women's economic development and gender-responsive governance. Legislative advances included the commutation of the death sentences of prisoners, including 27 women, as a result of the abolition of capital punishment; gender-sensitive handling of violence-against-women cases; and the introduction of legislation on gender equality. Women's employment and entrepreneurship were being promoted as part of the fight against women's poverty, and credit assistance and business training had helped many poor women become self-reliant.

46. In the spirit of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, the Government had supported participation by women in community development in peace and development programmes in conflict areas. Sex role stereotyping had been addressed by laws and policies promoting shared parenting and egalitarian relationships, and school textbooks conveyed gender-fair values and images. The Department of Labour was encouraging women's involvement in union activities, monitoring compliance with the Anti-Sexual-Harassment Law, and ensuring that women migrant workers were protected from discrimination and exploitation. Efforts were being made to increase the already rising number of women holding elective positions in order to enhance their participation in political decision-making.

47. She said it was eye-opening to learn from the Secretary-General's report on the status of women in the United Nations system (A/61/318) of the gaps in gender sensitivity within the United Nations. She appreciated the study on violence against women, and said that her delegation was studying pragmatic ways of operationalizing its recommendations.

48. **Ms. Bowen** (Jamaica) said that while Jamaicans were elated at the emergence earlier in the year of a woman as their Prime Minister, the fact that the rise of women to high political positions was still a novelty highlighted the need for more progress. The study on violence against women had illustrated the global nature of that phenomenon, which the Government was addressing through legislation and public education. Jamaica was also awaiting the findings of the studies of the issue being conducted by the Caribbean Regional Commission on Gender-based Violence that had been alluded to by the representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

49. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women needed to be the starting point for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Developing countries in particular needed to be assisted in translating their commitment to the Convention to action on the national level. Jamaica was preparing to accede to the Optional Protocol and to submit its sixth periodic report to the Committee. Jamaica recognized that gender mainstreaming needed to be accompanied by political will, and was establishing a multisectoral national gender policy to enhance gender mainstreaming at the structural level.

50. **Mr. Al-Sadah** (Yemen) said that Yemen had made much progress in gender equality and women's rights owing to the efforts of national women's institutions, as well as to the enshrinement of women's rights in the Constitution. Women's participation in the political process was no mere slogan in Yemen. There were two women ministers in the Government and a

number of women served as ministry officials. There were also women serving in Parliament, local councils, the judiciary, the diplomatic corps and the police. Women participated in the democratic process as voters, candidates and political party members. International observers had noted the outstanding participation of women in Yemen's recent presidential election. Basic education for girls in Yemen was now free of charge, and the proportion of women in the labour force was approximately one quarter. Increasing attention was paid to the health of mothers and children, and the Ministry of Health had prohibited government hospitals from performing female genital mutilation. Lastly, he reaffirmed his country's commitment to international instruments on women's rights and its conviction that there could be no sustainable development without participation by women and men on an equal footing.

51. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) said that the harmonization of Moroccan legislation with the international human-rights instruments ratified by Morocco was a priority of his Government. The code on Public Freedoms had been amended, and new legislation on prisons had been enacted to safeguard the physical and mental health of women and guarantee their rights. A new Code of Penal Procedure enshrined the presumption of innocence and other important principles, as well as recognition of the supremacy of international conventions over domestic legislation.

52. The Penal Code had been amended to criminalize trafficking, prostitution and child pornography, sexual harassment and violence against women. It also criminalized torture, in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In a historic development, Morocco had adopted a family code, so as to enable women to become integrated into modern life and strengthen their contribution to the progress and development of the country. The Family Code provided for the creation of new structures, including a family court system. Moreover, the Government had decided that children born to a Moroccan woman married to a foreigner would be entitled to Moroccan nationality.

53. Morocco had recently adopted a national strategy for gender mainstreaming in development policies and programmes and for ensuring coordination between stakeholders, taking into account the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action. Moreover, the Government had recently inaugurated a national observatory to combat violence against women, to provide orientation, coordination, follow-up and evaluation in connection with national policies aimed at ensuring full respect for the dignity of women. Moroccan NGOs also played a key role in the advancement of women, including involvement in programmes benefiting women and girls in rural areas.

54. Morocco would review its reservations and declarations with respect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and would consider the possibility of acceding to the Optional Protocol. In parallel, NGOs had launched a regional campaign for the removal of reservations to the Convention and for accession to the Optional Protocol.

55. **Mr. Kapoma** (Zambia) said that gender mainstreaming was an urgent priority in Zambia's policies for both poverty reduction and sustainable development. Zambia's poverty-reduction strategy paper included policies that enhanced the participation of men and women in all spheres of life and its current national development plan contained strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. An institutional framework for gender mainstreaming had been established and the national gender policy was being operationalized through a strategic plan of action. But there was still insufficient institutional capacity to implement gender-related activities.

56. Violence against women was linked to both patriarchal beliefs and socio-economic status. Zambia remained committed to the 1997 Declaration on Gender and Development adopted by the Southern African Development Community and the 1998 Addendum on the eradication of violence against women and children. It welcomed the recommendations for action at the national level in the Secretary-General's study on violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1), and hoped that regional bodies would make resources available to implement them. Given the relatively high rate of HIV/AIDS infection among women, Zambia was also incorporating gender-responsive practices into its national HIV/AIDS strategy. Zambia had made tremendous progress towards gender parity in primary education in line with the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015. He further

reiterated his Government's support for the goals set out in the Beijing Platform for Action.

57. **Mr. Uras** (Turkey) said that Turkey was pursuing a comprehensive legal and social strategy to curtail violence against women. The Law on the Protection of the Family facilitated the lodging of complaints by victims and included precautionary measures to ensure their protection; violation of those measures was punishable by imprisonment. The new Penal Code abolished any mitigating clause in the case of honour killings; perpetrators were to be given the highest possible sentences. The new Law on Municipalities provided for the establishment of shelters for women who had suffered or were at risk of suffering violence.

58. Educational and awareness-raising programmes concerning violence against women were also being implemented, especially for security forces and health-care personnel, and several video spots had been prepared in cooperation with NGOs. The latter were also conducting research studies on violence and developing problem-solving strategies that included counselling services and shelter for victims. Guidance and counselling services were also being offered by the provincial and municipal authorities.

59. **Ms. Moreno** (United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)) said that the Institute sought to mainstream the issue of violence against women in its activities, including in the areas of women's migration; gender, peace and security; and governance and women's political participation. Within that framework, it was carrying out several projects. As part of the project on violence against women and public security, it had developed a manual and a training tool for improving the response to violence against women by public security institutions. It had also begun a series of national case studies on gender and the security sector, beginning with the Dominican Republic, with the aim of identifying gender entry points, challenges to women's participation, and good practices within the police, military, judicial and penal systems as well as civil society. In addition, INSTRAW had just released a manual entitled "Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security", to assist in the formulation of national action plans under Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

60. The Institute would continue to participate in efforts to eliminate violence against women, thanks to support from the General Assembly and to the commitment of donor countries. The Institute had achieved important results in its work on migration, gender, remittances and development, on which it was promoting a gender perspective. In other strategic areas, it had produced seven research studies, four manuals, three databases and a number of other materials and methodologies, including a web portal on women's political participation.

61. **Ms. Çağar** (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) said that the Fund worked to ensure that addressing violence against women and girls was an integral part of the sexual and reproductive-health programmes it supported. The Fund fully agreed with the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/122/Add.1, para. 402) that entities of the United Nations system and all other donors should provide increased resources for the implementation of comprehensive national action plans aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women, particularly in the least developed countries and in countries emerging from conflict. The Fund was prepared to intensify work within the United Nations country teams to that end.

62. UNFPA agreed that launching national campaigns to reduce violence against women would contribute to improving the well-being of millions of people and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, the Fund had made progress, together with partners, in bringing national laws into compliance with international standards; in providing a range of services to victims; in training and sensitizing police, justice officials, armed forces and United Nations peacekeepers; in reaching out to men; in combating harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage; and in promoting gender equality and zero tolerance of violence against women. The Fund had worked with partners in every region of the world and had experience from which to build a more coordinated and effective response. Significant progress had been made, for example, in Africa, Asia, Central Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In dozens of countries, laws that discriminated against women had been replaced with new laws that upheld women's rights.

63. The Fund agreed with the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (ibid., para. 400) on the

need to strengthen data collection and research to guide legislative, policy and programme development, monitoring and evaluation. The Fund would continue to work within the United Nations system and with Governments to develop statistical capacity and coherence.

64. **Ms. Strauss** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that the empowerment of migrant women was a key step in promoting the advancement of women. She drew attention to a joint IOM/UNFPA expert workshop on female migrants, held in New York in May 2006.

65. The workshop had recommended, inter alia, that: (a) research should be conducted in countries of origin and destination on sectors affected by the brain drain, and that networking of professionals between countries of origin and destination should be promoted, together with the establishing of exchange programmes for professionals; (b) basic human-rights protection must be afforded to female migrants in countries of transit; (c) Governments should provide financial-literacy training for female migrants who were sending or receiving remittances; (d) countries of destination should help create an enabling environment for female migrants; (e) labour laws, conventions and treaties on female migration should be respected, and aid should be provided to trafficked and smuggled female migrants; (f) coordination of national ministries involved in migration was essential for a coherent approach to the protection of female migrants; (g) countries of origin and destination must engage in dialogue to assess the needs of their labour markets, and should conclude agreements to allow for the portability of migrants' social security; (h) countries of origin should provide support for the reintegration of returning female migrants; and (i) countries of origin, transit and destination, should engage in networking and dialogue with a view to effective migration management.

66. The implementation of those recommendations would be particularly beneficial to female migrants. IOM was cooperating with a number of countries to help implement them through a variety of means, including grass-roots programmes and projects.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*